

Message Text

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70

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 IO-11 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2890

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PASS FAS/USDA

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: AEGR, MX

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY MEAT CABLE

1. 4TH QUARTER BEEF AND VEAL EXPORTS TO US SUBJECT PL-88 482 IN THOUSAND POUNDS WERE 13,258. TOTAL FOR YEAR 30,841. YEAR END TOTAL WAS SLIGHTLY BELOW OUR FINAL 1975 ESTIMATE OF 32,583 DUE TO SOME PRICE WEAKNESS IN US BONELESS BEEF MARKET IN CLOSING WEEKS OF 1975. IN ADDITIONAL THERE WERE SOME PROBLEMS HERE IN GRANTED OF "MAQUILA" CATTLE IMPORT PERMITS. INDSTRY AND COMMERCE DELAYED SIGNING PERMITS AT REQUEST OF NTIONAL LIVESTOCK CONFEDERATION (CNG). SUBSECRETARY FOR LIVESTOCK ZIEROLD INFORMED EMBASSY AGR OFF THAT AT HIS REQUEST GOM MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING WAS CALLED TO RESOLVE "MAQUILA" CATTLE IMPORT QUESTION. ACCORDING TO SUBSECRETTARY IT WAS RESOLVED IN HIS FAVOR AND INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE WILL NOW APPROVE

WITHOUT DELAY OR QUESTION REQUESTS FOR "MAQUILA" CATTLE IMPORT PERMITS.

CNG, ACCORDING TO ZIEROLD, IS NO LONGER ACTIVELY OPENLY OPPOSING IMPORT OF "MAQUILA" CATTLE. APPROX 80,000 HEAD US CATTLE WERE IMPORTED FOR "MAQUILA" TRADE IN CY1975, SUPPTYING 20.9 MILLION POUNDS OF 30.8 MILLION POUNDS OF BEEF SHIPPED UNDER US VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT QUOTA OF 58.4 MILLION POUNDS ALLOCATED
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TO MEXICO.

2. ESTIMATED BONELESS BEEF SHIPMENTS SUBJECT PL-88 482 IN

THOUSAND POUNDS FOR 1976 BY QUARTERS FOLLOW:

FIRST: 12,000; SECOND: 10,000; THIRD: 16,000; FOURTH: 22,000;

TOTAL 60,000

1976 ESTIMATED IS BASED ON ASSUMPTION MEXICO'S ALLOCATION

UNDER US VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROGRAM WILL BE APPROX 60

MILLION POUNDS. GOM HAS CURRENTLY ASSIGNED 60-MILLION POUND

EXPORT QUOTA TO INDUSTRY. ALSO 1976 ESTIMATED INCLUDES

"MAQUILA" CATTLE WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE SIGNIFICANT FACTOR

DEPENDING ON US-MEXICAN BONING CATTLE PRICES. IF US PRICE

STRENGTHENS OR MEXICAN PRICE WEAKENS, MEXICAN PACKERS WILL TURN

MORE TO MEXICAN CATTLE FOR THEIR SUPPLIES. THERE ARE SUFFICIENT

MEXICAN CATTLE ON RANGE TO FILL 60 MILLION POUND EXPORT

QUOTA AS EVIDENCED BY SHARP UPTURN OF MEXICAN BEEF EXPORTED

IN FINAL QUARTER OF 1975 -- EXPORTING 7.5 OF 9.9 MILLION

POUNDS OF MEXICAN BEEF EXPORTED DURING WHOLE YEAR. THIS SHARP

UPTURN WAS DUE TO TWO FACTORS (1) UPWARD MOVEMENT IN PRICE FOR

BONING CATTLE (2) ADVENT OF FROST AND NORMAL DRYING UP OF PASTURES.

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